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PATENT

TECH CENTER 1600/2900 Attorney Docket No.  
28967/34140A

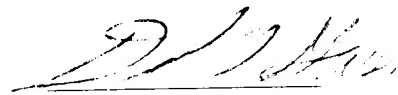


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Alitalo et al.  
  
Serial No.: 09/534,376  
  
Filed: March 24, 2000  
  
For: Vascular Endothelial Growth  
Factor C (VEGF-C) Protein  
and Gene, Mutants Thereof,  
and Uses Thereof  
  
Examiner: Eileen B. O'Hara  
  
Group Art Unit: 1632

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) David A. Gass

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to an official action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on February 27, 2002. This response is timely filed with a petition and fee for one month extension of time. Should any additional petition or fees be deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any such fees from Marshall, Gerstein and Borun deposit account number 13-2855.

In light of the amendments and remarks presented below, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections and favorable reconsideration of the application.